

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system may include several nodes coupled by an inter-node network configured to convey coherency messages between the nodes. Each node may include several active
5 devices coupled by an address network and a data network. The nodes implement a coherency protocol such that if an active device in one of the nodes has an ownership responsibility for a coherency unit, no active device in any of the other nodes has a valid access right to the coherency unit. For example, if a node receives a coherency message requesting read access to a coherency unit from another node, the node may respond by
10 conveying a proxy address packet, receipt of which removes ownership, on the node's address network to an owning active device. In contrast, the active device's ownership responsibility may not be removed in response to a device within the same node requesting read access to the coherency unit.